

# **2009 Communities of Opportunity - Early County**

## **Community Improvement Strategy:**

**Early County seeks to improve educational attainment for its teenage parents and reduce the rate of teenage mothers giving birth to a second child before age 20.**

### **Issues to be Addressed**

With 28.1% of the citizens of Early County living below the poverty level, and 41.9% of its children age 0-17 living below the poverty level, Early County sees the need to better educate its citizens. In particular, the latest data from Georgia Kids shows a 54.1% rate for teen pregnancies of girls between 15-17 with a 24.1% rate of teen mothers giving birth to a second child before age 20 in Early County. Teen parents and their children face economic and educational challenges that are compounded by repeat births. Early County sees the need to assist its pregnant teenagers to become better parents, complete high school and find employment after graduation. To this end, Early County will participate in the Early County High School Teen Parenting Program or TPP. The goals of TPP are to help students who are teenage parents become self-sufficient parents, continue their education and obtain a marketable job skill through the provision of technology-based education. The TPP also offers classes that teach parenting skills, nutrition education, time and money management, and community outreach skills.

### **Strategy**

As a Community of Opportunity, Early County will accomplish the following over the next two years:

1. Provide Parents As Teachers case management to in school pregnant/parenting 10<sup>th</sup> graders
2. Provide tutoring to in school pregnant/parenting 10<sup>th</sup> graders
3. Hold group parenting meetings
4. Offer career counseling and transition support to post-secondary education, training or employment services to in school pregnant/parenting 10<sup>th</sup> graders
5. Conduct in-home visits to teen parents and babies to assist with parenting skills
6. Provide community referrals and resources to support teen parents

### **Measures of Success**

For each strategy listed above, success will be measured as follows:

1. Early County will improve its graduation rate from 68.5% to 74%.
2. Early County will decrease the number of second births to teenage mothers from 24.1% to 20%.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

| <b>Issue Addressed</b>  | <b>Action Item</b>   | <b>Responsible Local Partners</b>                   | <b>Responsible State Partners</b>  | <b>Cost Estimate</b>                            | <b>Possible Funding Sources</b>      | <b>Starting and ending dates for completion of action item</b> |
|---|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Assist teenage parents to complete high school and improve their parenting skills | Provide Parents As Teachers case management to in school pregnant/parenting 10 <sup>th</sup> graders (includes weekly home visits, books for children/parent, resource referrals). This program will reduce having 2 <sup>nd</sup> children before age 20 and promote health well-being. | EC Family Connection; EC Public Health              | Georgia Department of Human Services, Georgia Department of Community Health – Division of Public Health | \$5000<br>28 hrs p/month x 12 months x \$15 p/h | DCA Communities of Opportunity grant | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |
| Assist teenage parents to complete high school and improve their parenting skills | Assist teenage parents to graduate from high school on time by offering tutoring and support resources (childcare, transportation)   | EC school counselors and coaches; Family Connection | GA Family Connection Partnership; Early County Extension Office  | \$500<br>50 hours x \$10 p/h                    | Early County Literacy Task Force     | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |
| Assist teenage parents to complete high school and improve their parenting skills | Provide fathers with mentoring and knowledge of accountability through Fatherhood boot camp  | EC Family Connection                                | Georgia Department of Human Services - Fatherhood Unit   | \$500<br>10 sessions x \$50 per                 | GA DHR Fatherhood Unit               | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |
| Assist teenage parents to complete high school and                                | Hold monthly group parent meetings for teens to help improve their parenting skills  | EC Family Connection                                | GA Family Connection Partnership; Early County   | \$2000 (15 months @ \$135)                      | EC Family Connection                 | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |

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|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| improve their parenting skills |  |   | Extension Office   |   |                                 |  |
| Promote self-sustainability    | Life skills workshops  | EC Extension Office   | Georgia Department of Human Services, Georgia Department of Community Health – Division of Public Health | 25 sessions @ \$50 per = \$1250                     | In kind                         | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |
| Promote self-sustainability    | Career mentorship; develop business mentors based upon student's career dreams/goals | EC Chamber of Commerce; EC Graduation coach/counselors            | GA Dept of Education; GA Chamber of Commerce   | 4-8 training sessions for mentors @ \$100 per=\$800 | In kind                         | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |
| Promote self-sustainability    | Provide career counseling and opportunities to enroll in school to work programs.    | EC Chamber of Commerce; EC graduation coaches; Bainbridge College | GA Dept of Education; University System of Georgia   | \$30 p/hour x 10 hrs p/month x 8 months= \$2400     | In kind                         | October 1, 2009-June 30, 2011                                  |

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto Agree to adopt the Early County Community Improvement Strategy.

FOR THE RECIPIENT

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Coordinator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City